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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Another suicide attack in Israel: 18 dead - Sabah 10/5  
First Israeli assault on Syria in 30 years - Milliyet  
Israel bombs camp 15 km from Damascus - Hurriyet  
Israel takes revenge on Syria - Sabah  
Americans will find PKK, Turks will strike - Hurriyet  
10/4  
Annan tough on new U.S. resolution on Iraq - Milliyet  
10/4  
President Bush, the Poet - Milliyet 10/5

##### OPINION MAKERS

Palestinian suicide bomber breaks Haifa peace - Radikal  
Woman suicide bomber strikes in Haifa, 20 dead - Zaman  
10/5  
Bloody message to Syria - Cumhuriyet  
Gen. Sanchez: Our fight in Iraq might take years -  
Radikal 10/4  
CIA's Kay: No WMD in Iraq - Radikal 10/4  
Talabani extends olive branch, says Turkish support  
significant - Zaman  
Saddam's soldiers protest for wages - Zaman 10/5  
Bush-style serenade for Laura - Radikal 10/5  
Chechnya's single-option election - Cumhuriyet 10/5  
629 bodies exhumed from mass grave in Bosnia - Zaman  
10/4

#### BRIEFING

Turkish peacekeepers to Iraq: The Council of Ministers will decide on Monday on the deployment of Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq, and will submit a related motion to the parliament later this week. Prime Minister Erdogan, Foreign Minister Gul, and State Minister Babacan are expected to brief AK Party lawmakers on the issue on Tuesday. Foreign Minister Gul said the motion would not specify the destination and size of the Turkish troop contingent to be deployed in Iraq. Prime Minister Erdogan said his government would not wait to see a related UNSC resolution before deploying soldiers in Iraq. Dailies expect the government to ask for a 'permission' rather than an 'authority' from the parliament in order to avoid a possible veto by President Sezer. Meanwhile, papers report that mass demonstrations by NGOs and labor unions against Turkey sending soldiers to Iraq will be held in major Turkish provinces this week.

U.S., Turkey action plan against PKK/KADEK: According to information based on 'reliable sources,' Saturday's "Hurriyet" reports that the U.S. will provide Turkey with information regarding the hideouts of PKK militants in Northern Iraq, and then allow Turkish special forces to launch operations against the terrorists. The U.S. will then try in various ways to convince PKK members to return to Turkey in line with the provisions of the amnesty law. Diplomatic sources told "Hurriyet" that the action plan for fighting the PKK/KADEK is based on the U.S. action plan to fight the Al-Qaeda terror network.

U.S. Embassy denies allegation of F-16 trouble with Turkey: The U.S. Embassy in Ankara denied press reports claiming that the U.S. had withheld necessary technology in the sale of SPEWS electronic warfare systems for Turkey's F-16 program. The U.S. is proud of its long-standing cooperation with Turkey on its F-16 program, a U.S. Embassy statement stressed, and added that U.S. companies are working closely with Turkey to complete the transfer of electronic warfare systems.

Turkey, Israel agree on sale of Manavgat water: Weekend papers report that Turkey and Israel have reached a framework agreement regarding the sale of Manavgat water to Israel. Israeli Energy Minister Joseph Paritzky told the Turkish press that the two countries had agreed on the price and amount of water to be sold, and that a deal would be signed soon. However, Turkey's Energy Minister Hilmi Guler said that uncertainty over the price issue continues.

Denktas warns he could veto election outcome: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas said that he could veto the outcome of elections if the opposition emerges victorious in the general election to be held in North Cyprus in December. "I will use all my powers to prevent developments which would harm Turkish Cypriot interests, and will withdraw and fight together with my people if I fail," Denktas said.

AKP seeks extensive changes to constitution: The AK Party has prepared a package to change about 50 provisions of Turkey's Constitution, papers report. The president's term in office will be restricted to five years, general elections will be held every four years instead of five, and the justice minister and his undersecretary will be excluded from the high board of judges and prosecutors in order to ensure the independence of judiciary.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: US Elections

"Democrats Joyous, Bush is Unhappy"

Ali Aslan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (10/6): "President Bush is rapidly losing his popularity, which reached a peak after 9/11, and began declining in the post-war period. Bush's Iraq policy is supported by less than 50 percent of the American people. .. In the midst of controversy about weapons of mass destruction, even more controversial issues will be coming onto the agenda. It seems the scandal involving Joseph Wilson will become even more painful for Washington than the WMD debate. . Recent developments in the nation's capital are enough to make Democrats very happy. It remains to be seen how and if the Bush administration will manage to overcome the domestic political issues brought on by the Iraq war."

"Americans are tired of politicians"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-politic Dunya (10/6): "The US has entered a pre-election period. Schwarzeneger seems to be the strong name for the upcoming California elections, and Wesley Clark of the Democratic Party seems to be strong for the 2004 presidential elections. . Clark has no political background, yet he has already gained great popularity among the voters. Americans are enthusiastic about Clark's views on the Iraq war, in which he criticizes the Bush administration for managing the war very badly. . American political history is full of successful leaders with no professional political background. Ronald Reagan, Bill Bradley and Jesse Ventura are only a few examples of many. Wesley Clark might also be included in this list one day."

EDELMAN